

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A shoe cleaning apparatus selectively attachable to a rear of a vehicle comprising:

a hitch receiver disposed on an underside of a bumper on the rear of the vehicle, said hitch receiver defining an aperture;

a frame having a forward end including a mounting arm, said mounting arm including at least one mounting aperture formed thereon for aligning with said aperture formed on said hitch receiver of the vehicle;

at least one brush unit coupled to said frame;

a coupling element coupling said mounting arm of said frame to the hitch receiver of the vehicle such that said mounting arm of said frame locates entirely under said bumper, said coupling element extending through said hitch receiver aperture and said mounting aperture in an installed position; and

a hinge disposed on said mounting arm for moving said brush unit between an operating position and a storage position.

2 – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein said frame includes a linking aperture formed on a rearward end thereof, said linking aperture adapted to cooperate with a tow bar in a towing position for towing a second vehicle.

5. (Original) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mounting arm includes a stepped portion for presenting said frame in a laterally offset relationship from the hitch receiver of the vehicle.

6. (Currently Amended) A shoe cleaning apparatus for use with a vehicle comprising:

a brush assembly having at least one brush unit thereon;

a mounting arm having a lower portion coupled to and extending from said brush assembly and an upper portion selectively coupled to a hitch receiver of the vehicle in an installed position, said mounting arm further comprising a hinge disposed entirely on said lower portion for moving said brush assembly between an operating position and a storage position; and

wherein said mounting arm defines a stepped portion extending perpendicularly between and integrally formed with said lower portion and said upper portion, said stepped portion adapted to present said brush assembly at a laterally offset orientation from the vehicle toward a ground surface and wherein said hinge is disposed on said lower portion a distance offset from said stepped portion.

7 – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 6 wherein said brush assembly is operable to rotate between a substantially parallel relationship with said ground surface in said operating position and an upright position substantially perpendicular to said ground surface in said storage position.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of moving a shoe cleaning apparatus between an operating position and a storage position, wherein said shoe cleaning apparatus is attached to a vehicle having a hitch receiving portion, the method comprising:

providing a brush assembly having a brush unit thereon;

aligning a mounting aperture on a forward end of said brush assembly with an aperture formed on the hitch receiving portion of the vehicle;

securing said brush assembly to the hitch receiving portion; and

rotating said brush assembly about a hinge disposed on said brush assembly from the operating position substantially parallel to a ground surface to the storage position substantially perpendicular to said ground surface.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein securing said brush assembly includes:

inserting a coupling element through said mounting aperture on said brush assembly and said aperture on said hitch receiving portion; and

securing said coupling element from substantial movement.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

attaching a tow bar coupled to a second vehicle to a linking aperture on said brush assembly.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein attaching a tow bar comprises:

aligning a tow bar aperture with said linking aperture on said brush assembly;

inserting a coupling element through said tow bar aperture and said linking aperture; and

securing said coupling element thereat.

15. (Currently Amended) A shoe cleaning apparatus selectively attachable to a rear of a vehicle comprising:

a hitch receiver disposed entirely on an underside of a bumper on the rear of the vehicle, said hitch receiver defining an aperture;

a frame having a forward end including a mounting arm and a rearward end including a linking aperture formed thereon, said linking aperture adapted to cooperate with a tow bar in a towing position for towing a second vehicle;

at least one brush unit coupled to said frame;

a coupling element coupling said mounting arm of said frame to said hitch receiver of the vehicle such that said mounting arm of said frame locates entirely under said bumper; and

a hinge disposed on said mounting arm for moving said brush unit between an operating position and a storage position.

16. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 15 wherein said mounting arm includes at least one mounting aperture formed thereon for aligning with an aperture formed on said hitch receiver of the vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 16 wherein said coupling element extends through said hitch receiver aperture and said mounting aperture in an installed position.

18. (Previously Presented) The shoe cleaning apparatus of claim 15 wherein said mounting arm includes a stepped portion for presenting said frame in a laterally offset relationship from the hitch receiver of the vehicle.